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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/609,290	06/27/2003	James V. Luciani	NN-BA0334(C1)	5203
34645	7590	04/24/2006	EXAMINER	
JOHN C. GORECKI, ESQ. P.O BOX 553 CARLISLE, MA 01741				HSU, ALPUS
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2616		

DATE MAILED: 04/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/609,290	LUCIANI ET AL.
	Examiner Alpus H. Hsu	Art Unit 2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-3 and 49-51 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-3 and 49-51 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

1. Claims 49-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 49 recites the limitation "each NHRP message" in line 3, and claim 50 recites the limitation "each packet" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for each of the limitation in the claim.

2. Claims 1-3 and 49-51 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 48-50 of U.S. Patent No. 6,614,791. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because by omitting the packets multiplexing step in claim 1, and the unique tag associating step in claim 48 of U.S. Patent No. 6,614,791, it would have been obvious to make claims 1-3, 48-50 in U.S. Patent No. 6,614,791 identical to claims 1-3, 49-51 of the instant application.

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by FOWLER et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,504,819 B2, hereinafter referred as FOWLER.

Regarding to claim 1, FOWLER discloses a method for supporting multiple Virtual Private Networks in a Multi-protocol Over ATM/Next Hop Resolution Protocol (MPOA/NHRP) communication system, the method comprising: establishing a connection in the communication system; and using in-band signaling (SVC) to designate the connection for a number of Virtual Private Networks (see col. 1, lines 43-50, col. 2, lines 38-41, 56-63, col. 3, lines 15-20).

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later

invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

8. Claims 2-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FOWLER.

Regarding claims 2 and 3, FOWLER does not disclose the features of adding/ removing a Virtual Private Network to/from the connection, which is well known in the art and commonly applied in communications network for providing internetworking services, which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art into the method in FOWLER for increasing the data transport efficiency.

9. Claims 49 and 50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BROWN et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,279,035 B1, hereinafter referred as BROWN, in view of PEGRUM et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,516,417 B1, hereinafter referred as PEGRUM.

Regarding claims 49 and 50, BROWN discloses a method for supporting multiple Virtual Private Networks using the Next Hop Resolution Protocol (NHRP), the method comprising: determining a Virtual Private Network for each NHRP message; and converting between MPOA and NHRP messages (see col. 3, lines 26-33).

BROWN differs from the claims, in that, it does not disclose the specific feature of encoding a Virtual Private Network identifier in a header of each NHRP message packet, which is well known in the art and commonly applied in ATM networking field for header processing for data routing purpose. PEGRUM, for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches the use of Virtual Private Network identifiers in headers of each message packet, which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art into the method in BROWN to provide the packet encapsulation for data routing purpose to further improve the system reliability and speed.

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10. Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over BROWN in view of PEGRUM, as applied to claims 49 and 50 above, and further in view of ALLAN et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,946,313 A, hereinafter referred as ALLAN.

Regarding claim 51, the method from BROWN in view of PEGRUM differs from the claim, in that, it does not disclose the specific header being a Logical Link Control/SubNetwork Attachment Point (LLC/SNAP) header, which is also a well known form of header commonly used in ATM networking field. ALLAN, for example, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches such header (see col. 7, lines 55-59, col. 8, lines 30-41), which can be easily adopted by one of ordinary skill in the art into the method from BROWN in view of PEGRUM to provide a specific header for the message packet as required by the user or designer.

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

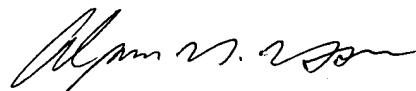
Dobbins et al., Alexander, Jr. et al., Cox et al., Silton et al. and Mangin et al. are cited to show the common feature of ATM backbone virtual LAN utilizing virtual channels for connections between networks similar to the claimed invention.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alpus H. Hsu whose telephone number is (571)272-3146. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (5:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on (571)272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AHH



Alpus H. Hsu
Primary Examiner
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